



ART 2950

Division: Fine Arts

Department: Visual Art

Course: ART 2950

Title: Experiments in Visual Thinking

Catalog Description:

Experiments in Visual Thinking is an idea-driven studio course designed to teach students to solve visual, conceptual, and material problems through interpretation and invention. Emphasis is placed on imagination, experimentation, audience, and on gaining an understanding of the rationale behind one's own and others artistic production. This course incorporates readings from contemporary art journals and theory texts. Students develop an expanded visual vocabulary of contemporary art practices while learning how to visually and verbally communicate their ideas and process. Students are expected to be self-motivated and directed. Class hours are devoted to lectures, discussions, presentations, demonstrations, studio time, and critiques.

General Education Requirements: N/A

Semesters Offered: TBA

Credit/Time Requirement: Credit: 3; Lecture: 3; Lab: 3

Clock/Hour Requirements: 0

Offered for Non-Credit: No

Prerequisites: ART 1110, ART 1120, ART1130

Justification:

Snow College Visual Arts is preparing for the introduction of the Associate of Fine Art (AFA) Degree as an offering to visual art students. As part of this preparation, we are building second tier courses in a variety of visual disciplines to sustain this program. Experiments in Visual Thinking addresses artistic issues not currently taught in depth in other art classes. Students need to be able to articulate contemporary artistic forms and support their material production with intellectual rigor in the context of current academic debate. The focus will be on ideas and new genres as they apply to Contemporary Art. Most higher education institutions teach these ideas and methods and it is important that Snow students can articulate these concepts both visually and verbally. This course will prepare students to transfer to a BFA program with a stronger understanding of contemporary art genres and concepts. One of the current faculty members in Visual Arts has a particular enthusiasm for contemporary conceptual art and is highly qualified to teach this course.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- articulate how their work is situated ideologically and methodologically in the context of

contemporary art

- understand the relationship between content, form, and audience in their own work
- be familiar with the major contemporary art genres and movements

Content:

This course will include:

- readings from current art journals to supplement understanding of concepts as they apply to specific projects
- research on artists and art groups working in experimental genres to inform students' personal studio practice and understanding of current trends
- critiques designed to help students articulate their ideas, stimulate discussion, provoke thought, and deepen student's understanding of their own and other's work
- lectures and demonstration applicable to assignments
- the creation of several complete works of art across multiple genres of artistic practice all of which are designed to promote visual experimentation and intellectual rigor

General Education Outcomes:

9) Respond with informed sensitivity to an artistic work or experience.

Students are repeatedly exposed to the work of professional artists and are required to speak critically about the process, material, and meaning of works of art. In addition, students regularly participate in group discussions regarding the work of their peers where they employ their knowledge of visual language and artistic discipline. Finally, students are required to be self-engaged and aware of their own creative process and context. Responding to works of art allows the students to better understand their own creative process and results in more complicated and nuanced work.

Key Performance Indicators:

Student growth is demonstrated by the level of experimentation, creativity, and the relationship between materials and concept: 80% of the final grade

- Participation in critiques, demonstrations, and class discussions: 20% of the final grade

Representative Text and/or Supplies:

N/A

Optimum Class Size: 12

Maximum Class Size: 15

Signatures:

I hereby submit this course syllabus:

Brad Taggart, MFA, Assistant Professor

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Visual Art Department:

Brad Taggart, MFA, Assistant Professor, Chair

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Fine Arts Division:

Vance Larsen, MM, Associate Professor, Dean

I have discussed the need for library resources related to this class with the person submitting the syllabus:

Lynn Anderson, MLIS, Technical Services Librarian (Main Campus)

Michelle Olsen, MLS, Campus Librarian (Richfield Campus)